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Division of Forensic Science	Amendment Designator:	
TOXICOLOGY TECHNICAL PROCEDURES MANUAL	Effective Date: 31-March-2004	

## 27 SALICYLATE QUANTITATION BY UV/VIS SPECTROPHOTOMETRY

# 27.1 Summary

27.1.1 In the presence of ferric salts, salicylate produces a violet color whose absorbance is a function of salicylate concentration. The intensity of the color in the unknown biological sample is compared with a standard curve of blank blood spiked with salicylate. When run in conjuction with a salicylate-specific immunoassay, this test can be used to confirm the presence of salicylate.

### 27.2 Specimen Requirements

27.2.1 1 mL blood, biological fluid or tissue homogenate.

# 27.3 Reagents and Standards

- 27.3.1 Sodium salicylate
- 27.3.2 Hydrochloric Acid
- 27.3.3 Ferric nitrate (Fe(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>•9 H<sub>2</sub>O)
- 27.3.4 Mercuric chloride
- 27.3.5 Chloroform

### 27.4 Solutions, Internal Standard, Calibrators and Controls

- 27.4.1 0.1 M HCL: Add 3.1 mL concentrated HCl to 100 mL volumetric flask and QS to volume with dH<sub>2</sub>O.
- 27.4.2 Trinder's Reagent: dissolve 8.0 g of mercuric chloride in approximately 170 mL of dH<sub>2</sub>O by heating. Cool the solution and add 24 mL of 1 M HCl and 5.0 g of ferric nitrate (Fe(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>•9 H<sub>2</sub>O). When the ferric nitrate has dissolved, dilute the solution to 200 mL with dH<sub>2</sub>O.
- 27.4.3 2 mg/mL salicylate stock solution. Weigh 232 mg of sodium salicylate and transfer to 100 mL volumetric flask. Dissolve the salt in dH<sub>2</sub>O and then QS to volume with dH<sub>2</sub>O. Add a few drops of chloroform as a preservative.
- 27.4.4 0.5 mg/mL salicylate blood solution. Pipet 2.5 mL of 2 mg/mL salicylate stock solution into a 10 mL volumetric flask. OS to volume with blank blood.
- 27.4.5 To prepare the calibration curve, pipet the following volumes of the 0.5 mg/mL salicylate blood solution into appropriately labeled 16 x 125 mm screw cap test tubes. Add corresponding volumes of blank blood to obtain the final concentrations listed below.

Amount of 0.5 mg/mL blood salicylate working solution (mL)	Amount of blank blood (mL)	Final concentration of salicylate (mg/L)	
0.2	0.8	100	
0.4	0.6	200	
0.6	0.4	300	
0.8	0.2	400	
1.0	0	500	

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- 27.4.6 Controls
  - 27.4.6.1 Salicylate Control. Control may be from an external source or prepared in house using drugs from different manufacturers, lot numbers or prepared by a chemist different than the individual performing the extraction.
  - 27.4.6.2 Negative control. Blood bank blood or equivalent determined not to contain salicylate.

# 27.5 Apparatus

- 27.5.1 Test tubes, 16 x 125 mm, round bottom, borosilicate glass with Teflon caps
- 27.5.2 1 cm UV-VIS cuvettes
- 27.5.3 UV-VIS spectrophotometer
- 27.5.4 Centrifuge capable of 2000-3000 rpm
- 27.5.5 Vortex mixer

#### 27.6 Procedure

- 27.6.1 Label clean 16 x 125 mm screw cap tubes appropriately with calibrators, controls and case samples IDs.
- 27.6.2 Prepare calibrators and controls.
- 27.6.3 Prepare reagent blank with 1 mL dH<sub>2</sub>O.
- 27.6.4 Add 1 mL case specimens to the appropriately labeled tubes.
- 27.6.5 Add 5 mL Trinder's reagent to each tube while vortexing. Continue vortexing until the precipitate is finely dispersed.
- 27.6.6 Centrifuge at 2000 rpm for 5 minutes.
- 27.6.7 Transfer supernatants to cuvettes.
- 27.6.8 Read reagent blank at 540 nm.
- 27.6.9 Read each sample at 540 nm.

# 27.7 Calculation

27.7.1 Plot curve of standard salicylate concentration versus absorbance at 540 nm. Use a linear regression to determine the correlation coefficient and regression line. Calculate case sample salicylate concentrations from standard curve.

# 27.8 Quality Control and Reporting

- 27.8.1 Blood blank salicylate concentration should be less than 100 mg/L.
- 27.8.2 Case samples with salicylate concentrations greater than 300 mg/L should be confirmed with a different chemical principal (immunoassay) before being reported.

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